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STAMFORD NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING MEMORANDUM OF MEETING

SUBJECT: HUBBARD HEIGHTS AND WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CLOSING
CHARRETTE

DATE: JUNE 11, 2008 **TIME:** 7:00 PM

LOCATION: WESTOVER SCHOOL, 412 STILLWATER AVENUE

Mani Poola, City Traffic Engineer, welcomed the attendees and introduced the project. Joe Rimiller, Assistant Project Manager, discussed the charrette process. This is the closing charrette and it is the second of two charrettes. The first charrette was aimed at gathering input from the community. Following the opening charrette the project team analyzed all of the identified issues and prepared a neighborhood traffic calming plan addressing them. During this evening's charrette that plan will be presented the community will have the opportunity to critique and make additions to it before it is finalized. Residents are also encouraged to submit additional comments to the project team via phone, e-mail, or the project website (www.stamfordtrafficcalming.com). Updates including meeting minutes, the neighborhood traffic calming plans, and other information will be posted on the website.

National traffic calming expert Dan Burden gave a presentation which detailed the benefits of traffic calming and described a wide variety of specific treatments. Highlights include the following:

- Pedestrian survival following a collision is directly related to vehicular speed.
- A driver's peripheral vision decreases as speed increases.
- According to a study by Appleyard, interaction between neighbors decreases as traffic speeds and volumes increase.
- Appleyard also studied the size of the area which people consider part of their homes. On streets with low volumes and speeds residents considered both sides of the street to be part of their home, while on streets with fast speeds on high volumes residents didn't even consider the front of their houses to be part of their homes.
- Traffic calming is a way of improving quality of life, safety, and sense of community.
- Most communities initially take a reactive approach to traffic calming which involves unwarranted stop signs and speed humps. Unwarranted stop signs lead to speed spiking while the overuse of speed humps delays emergency response vehicles. The approach



which Stamford is currently taking will result in a citywide traffic calming master plan. This approach is much more proactive and effective.

- The devices in the traffic calming toolbox can be grouped into three categories – visual treatments, horizontal treatments, and vertical treatments.

Visual Treatments

- Visual treatments are the first option that should be considered when addressing a traffic issue. They usually have the greatest impact, are the most aesthetically pleasing, and are the least expensive treatments.
- Road diets can be implemented by simply changing the lane markings on a street. Road diets involve either using narrower or fewer lanes. They result in slower speeds and fewer crashes because they force drivers to pay closer attention to the road.
- Trees in medians or on the sides of the roads discourage speeding.
- On street parking reduces the width of the travel lanes and thus prevent speeding.
- Parking chicanes involve alternating parking from one side of the street to another. They prevent drivers from having a straight path on which to accelerate.
- Pocket parking protects parked vehicles and limit roadway width.
- On very wide streets angle parking can be implemented. Angle parking increases the number of spaces available, is aesthetically pleasing, and reduces roadway width.

Horizontal Treatments

- Crosswalks alert the driver that they are entering an area reserved for pedestrians.
- Medians narrow roads and prevent drivers from sling-shooting around curves.
- Refuge islands cut the distance which pedestrians must cross at one time in half.
- Curb extensions shorten the distance the pedestrians must cross, make pedestrians more visible to drivers, and prevent vehicles from parking at corners and obstructing sightlines.
- Mini-roundabouts improve safety by limiting the number of conflicting movements at an intersection. They also offer opportunities for landscaping.
- Curb radii reductions are used at intersections that are excessively wide. They prevent vehicles from speeding around corners.
- Chokers narrow two lane roadways down to one lane at a midblock location.

Vertical Treatments

- Vertical treatments should be used when visual and horizontal treatments are not an option.
- Speed humps provide vertical deflection.
- Speed tables are similar to speed humps but they have a flat top. Unlike speed humps they are effective in slowing larger vehicles such as SUV's.
- Raised intersections raise the intersection up to the height of the sidewalk. They are expensive because they require more material but they are effective, particularly in school areas.



Activity #1

Following a brief overview of the neighborhood traffic calming plan, participants were asked to identify concerns and provide comments:

RESULTS

- Don't eliminate on street parking on residential streets
- Improvements are needed at the intersection of Woodcliff Street and Ivy Street
- A roundabout is needed at the intersection of Hubbard Avenue and Bridge Street
- Hazel Street is narrow. Make sure inset parking really would fit on Hazel Street.
- The intersection of Hazel Street and West Main Street is confusing. It switches between two-way and one-way traffic.
- Consider treatments on West Main Street even if they don't conform to state standards because Neighborhood Revitalization Zones can request waivers of state standards.
- Perry Street, Rose Park Avenue, and Taylor Street are narrow and curb extensions and additional narrowing through the use of curb extensions is not needed. However, curb extensions could be useful for improving sightlines.
- Mill River narrows from two lanes to one lane at the intersection of West Broad Street, creating a traffic jam. West Broad Street should be widened at Adams Avenue.
- Prohibit through truck traffic from using Hubbard Avenue
- Do not use any vertical treatments on Hubbard Avenue because they will impede emergency service vehicles heading to the hospital
- Look at traffic count data for West Broad Street
- Improvements are needed at the intersection of West Avenue and West Main Street
- Additional on street parking will be required once the condominiums being built on Liberty Street are opened. Don't implement inset parking if on street parking spaces will be lost.

Activity #2

Participants were asked to identify the locations that should be top priorities for receiving treatment.

HUBBARD HEIGHTS RESULTS

- Speeding at the intersection of Bridge Street and Hubbard Avenue
- Prohibit trucks from using Hubbard Avenue
- The intersection of West Main Street, Hazel Street, and Spruce Street is confusing
- Prohibit trucks from using upper West Broad Street
- Improvements needed at the Bridge Street and Washington Boulevard intersection

WEST SIDE RESULTS

- 1A. Tresser Boulevard at West Main Street, Greenwich Avenue, and Mill River Street



- 1B. West Main Street at Stillwater Avenue
2. West Main Street at Spruce Street and Hazel Street (near KFC)
3. Stillwater Avenue at Smith Street (Boxer Traffic Island)
4. Mill River Street at West Broad Street
5. West Main Street at West Avenue

Activity #3

Attendees were given an opportunity to sign up to be part of a steering committee which will oversee the plan through the implementation phase. Those who were unable to commit time to being full members of the committee were able to sign up to be assistants to the committee.

Activity #4

Participants were given an opportunity to review the preliminary neighborhood traffic calming plan in detail and write down their comments. No additional comments were received during this activity.

It is believed that the above represents an accurate description of the major events that transpired at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

URBAN ENGINEERS, INC.

Najib O. Habesch
Project Manager

cc: File